

BETWEEN FLORENCE AND AVIGNON

'/«, the former under Hawkwood, the latter ruled by a French Drelate under the title of Count of Romagna. Fearing for his Dosition, this latter sent for Hawkwood and the English, who Durst into Faenza, shouting *Viva la Chiesa*, sacked the town, and expelled all the inhabitants, save a number of women whom they cept for their own lusts. Two of Hawkwood's captains or *aporali* were fighting together for the possession of a beautiful founng girl, a novice from one of the convents, who cried upon ler divine Bridegroom and His Mother to deliver her, when Hawkwood came upon the scene. Unable to separate them, he •tabbed the girl to death with his own dagger. " And so," writes Fra Filippo, " the Virgin Mary heard her and delivered her ; virgin and martyr and bride of her Son, she bore her away to he realm of life eternal, as it is written in the Psalm : *lest the "ighteous put forth- their hands unto iniquity"*^ Shortly after, Hawkwood sold both Bagnacavallo and Faenza to the Marquis of Ferrara, to obtain the arrears of pay that were owed him by the Church.

In spite of the expulsion of the legate from Bologna, the position of the Florentines was highly critical. If the Pope were to promulgate his sentence and could induce the nations to enforce it, the whole mercantile traffic of the Republic would be destroyed. Rumours had already reached them of papal galleys being equipped in haste at Marseilles to prey upon their commerce, of i great army of formidable Breton mercenaries being taken into the pay of the Church. It was, above all, imperative to gain time. ¹Because of the process," writes Fra Raimondo, "they were compelled to treat for peace with the Sovereign Pontiff, through the means of persons who they knew were acceptable to him. They were informed that the holy virgin, by reason of the fame of her sanctity, was most pleasing in the Pope's sight. Therefore they ordained that I should first go to the said

¹ *Assempro* 58 : "Come una vergine fu guardata da la Vergine Maria per martirio." The sack of Faenza was on March 28, 1376. Cf. *Cronaca Rimintse (Rer. It. Script., xv.)*, col. 914 ; *Crontca di Bologna*, coll. 501, 502. There was ittle actual bloodshed.